FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Ice Fields Reported Deep in Gulf of Riga

LD221051 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0700 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Although the harsh winter has passed, it is still making itself felt on the Baltic. For the first time in many years, ice fields have crossed far into the Gulf of Riga and reached Ventspils, which has always been considered to be a port that does not freeze over. A particularly difficult situation has unfolded in the north-eastern part of the gulf, where hummocks of ice have totally blocked the passage. The icebreaker *Dikson* has come from Murmansk to help sea and port workers; it has forced channels for supply ships in the ice of the Irbenskiy Proliv and the Baltic Sea. Thanks to these measures and others, navigation is proceeding without any hitches in the ports of Riga and Ventspils; since the start of the year more than 500 vessels flying the flags of 30 countries have moored there.

Biryukova Discusses Women's Role in Society

PM241055 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No 10, 17 Mar 86 pp 18-19

[Article by Aleksandra Biryukova, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and vice chairman of the AUCCTU: "Women in the Soviet Union"]

[Text] Three quarters of a century ago, on March 8, 1911, thousands upon thousands of women marched through the streets of German, Austrian, Danish and Swiss cities to observe International Women's Day for the first time. The decision to institute this day had been taken a year earlier at the international Conference of Women Socialists in Copenhagen at the suggestion of Clara Zetkin, the outstanding woman revolutionary. It marked the first step towards uniting working women in the struggle for equality and a worthy place in every sphere of life — at work, in government, in culture, and in the family.

The past decades have shown that in fighting to shake off the age-old shackles the women's movement merges with the mainstream of working people battling against capital. This development was predicted by Karl Marx who wrote in the late 1860s that "great social upheavals are impossible without feminine ferment." Much later Lenin, drawing from revolutionary practice, concluded that "there can be no real mass movement without the women."

Communists have given women's instinctive striving for freedom concrete form as the struggle against a concrete enemy. Women's actions have assumed a class character.

My own experience has enabled me to see the life of Soviet women from every angle. I was born and raised in the countryside where I learned farm work. Studying at a college in Moscow, I met women of my age from different social backgrounds and different nationalities. I worked in a textile factory where women have traditionally constituted most of the work force. For more than 15 years I was head of the commission of the AUCCTU Presidium that deals with women's working and living conditions and the protection of motherhood and childhood. I am now head of a standing committee with the same function in the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation.

At the 27th Party Congress I surveyed the faces of the delegates from my seat on the podium and was glad that of the 5,000 delegates 1,352 (27 percent) were women. Among them were government and public figures, party workers, workers in culture and the arts, scientists, and leading women workers in industry and on collective farms.

One delegate to the congress was Mariya Golubeva, a dairymaid from a cattle-breeding state farm in the Altay region, Hero of Socialist Labour. She is kind yet uncompromisingly firm with herself and her comrades. Natalya Gellert, a well-known woman tractor driver from Kazakhstan and a member of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., drew attention to a number of serious problems of agricultural production. She symbolizes this country's internationalism: a German by birth, she married a Kazakh and their large family speaks three languages — German, Kazakh and Russian. Addressing the congress with genuine concern for the good of her country, Valentina Pletneva, a weaver from the flax mil in Kostroma, upbraided scientists who are out of touch with everyday life and called for an end to a mere show of socialist emulation instead of the real thing. Statesmanlike wisdom informed the speeches by Nelli Yevshova, an adjuster from Perm, and Zhanna Fedorova, a district party secretary from the Voronezh Region.

The 27th Party Congress has brought further proof that in socialist society the highest value is placed on work. The right to work and to equal pay is great achievement of the new society. The Soviet woman fully enjoys this right, accounting for 51 percent of half of the material and intellectual wealth of the country. More than a third of people's judges and more than half of people's assessors are women. One in four scientific workers is a woman. Women account for 68 percent of the doctors and 72 percent of all schoolteachers. These figures are, of course, impressive.

It is becoming increasingly evident with every passing year that women want not only to work well but to make their work more satisfying and interesting. More than seven million women are members of societies of inventors and rationalizers run by the trade unions. Hundreds of women have been awarded national and local prizes for innovations that have yielded a high economic effect.

The problem of equal pay to women has long ceased to exist in this country. The fundamental principle of socialism, "From each according to his abilities, to each according to his work," became law in 1918 and is enshrined in the Soviet Constitution. In some cases women in fact enjoy preferential treatment in work quotas and pay rates. In the textile industry, for example, women over 45 have smaller quotas in servicing machines. Women assigned lighter work during pregnancy and after child-birth receive the same wages as before. The material well-being of women has been improved in recent years by the rise of wages in some non-productive branches of the economy where women account for over 70 percent of the work force.

Equal opportunities in education (of every 1,000 wage and salary women workers 869 today have higher or secondary education) have given women a chance to take part in economic management. Hundreds of thousands of women hold top posts in industry and agriculture.

The socialist state duly appreciates the contribution of Soviet women to the nation's material and spiritual wealth. One in three government decorations for conscientious work is awarded to women. A quarter of all Heroes of Socialist Labour are women. More than a third of the front-rank workers and farmers in the nationwide socialist emulation are women. Many women have won Lenin and state prizes of the U.S.R.

For the Soviet woman the right to work is not only a means of making a living. Work provides the economic basis of her equality in society and the family. It is in work — and this cannot be undervalued — that the woman acquires a sense of her own importance as a personality and her involvement in the affairs of the country as a whole. In the years of Soviet government we have seen the rise of a new type of woman — educated materially and intellectually independent, mistress in her own country, work place and home.

Let us cite some more figures. Half the mandates in the soviets of people's deputies, which constitute the political foundation of our state and the main link in the self-government of the people, are held by women. In 1984, 492 women were elected to the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., almost a third of all deputies. Dozens of women hold important posts in the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. and the Councils of Ministers of its constituent republics as well as ministerial posts in these republics. One cannot help but remember that before the October Revolution of 1917 80 percent of gainfully employed women were kitchen or chamber maids and seasonal labourers.

During the discussion of the documents prepared for the congress in work collectives, at party and trade union conferences, in newspaper and magazine articles and on radio and TV, women put forward millions of proposals as to how to enhance the effectiveness of labour, improve the quality of goods and save materials. They openly and boldly criticized everything that impedes our advance. The same fighting spirit marked the speeches of women delegates at the 27th congress. In this way women again demonstrated that, as equal members of society, they are anxious to see the winds of favourable change gather momentum in every area of life.

A woman may be a public figure or a weaver, a scientist or a tractor driver. But it is also her mission to be a mother. The Soviet people have profound respect for the mother. It may be said that mothers are respected in other countries as well. That is true. But it is only in the socialist state that motherhood has acquired social significance.

The socialist state takes constant care of the mother and her children. Much is being done to facilitate household chores. The state backs up its policy with legislative and financial acts. This constitutes one of the main lines of the party's social policy. "Securing living and working conditions for women that would enable them to successfully combine their maternal duties with active involvement in labour and public activity is a prerequisite for solving many family problems," the Political Report to the 27th party congress says.

The nature of my government and public activity (I am member of the Presidium of the Soviet Women's Committee and an expert of the U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women) brings me into contact with many women from abroad. They are naturally interested in the position of Soviet women. For my part, I ask them about the conditions of their work, their participation in public life and their everyday problems. I am invariably struck by the contrasts between the positions of women in the socialist and non-socialist — capitalist and developing — states.

Women are denied equal rights even in many countries whose ruling circles boast the "achievements" of bourgeois democracy. It is an extraordinary fact that the Constitution of Ireland binds the state to safeguard women against "any activity likely to divert them from the household duties."

And consider unemployment among women. In France, for example, women account for 39 percent of the work force and for more than half of the unemployed. In the F.R.G. the figures are 38 and 55 percent respectively. There is still discrimination in pay for women. In the majority of Common Market countries women get 25-30 percent less than men for equal work and in the United States, 35-47 percent.

Women worldwide pinned great hopes on the U.N. Decade for Women that ended last year. The platform of our activity was provided by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in late 1979. The states signatory to the convention have committed themselves to "adopt all necessary measures at the national level" to implement its proposals.

I was a member of the Soviet delegation to the U.N. conference in Nairobi, Kenya, in the middle of last summer that reviewed the results of the Decade for Women. We had to admit sadly that many non-socialist countries are, to put it mildly, dragging their feet on measures envisaged by the anti-discriminatory convention. The United States has even failed to ratify it. During the discussions a number of delegations from these countries tried to "depoliticize" the conference. However, the socialist and progressive developing countries managed to neutralize such efforts and, as a result, the conference produced documents with a progressive political thrust. They are clearly anti-imperialist and anti-militarist in character.

As for the socialist countries, they came to the Nairobi conference with a sense of duty fulfilled. The provisions of the convention have long been integrated into legal norms and laws and translated into everyday life in these countries. In the Soviet Union, for example, the provisions of the Constitution and Soviet legislation in many cases go further than the provisions of the convention, as the committee on the elimination of discrimination against women noted in its report.

This not to say that we have no problems. The share of manual work in trades where female labour is employed is still high. For

objective reasons the system of raising women's industrial skills is not yet effective enough. Lastly, facilitating household chores, most of which are done by women, calls for great effort.

Solutions to these and similar problems are envisaged in the main guidelines for the economic and social development of the U.S.S.R. adopted by the 27th party congress which have set the task of improving the labour and living conditions of women. In the 12th five-year-plan period it is planned to extend the practice of letting women work a shorter day or week. The number of paid day-offs granted to mothers to care for sick children will be increased. The low-income families with children up to 12 years of age will receive child allowances.

The Communists within the trade union movement are fully aware of their great responsibility in implementing this programme. We always remember that, as the Political Report stresses, "the trade unions should always give priority to social policy, to promoting the working people's interests."

The fulfillment of the innovative plans of accelarated socio-economic development and the achievement of a qualitatively new stage envisaged by the 27th party congress are possible only in the conditions of peace. Should nuclear war erupt, our planet would be reduced to ashes.

The struggle against imperialist plans to unleash a new war is therefore a struggle for the security of the present and future generations. Woman can identify with this goal more than anyone else. Aware of the gravity of the threat to peace, they join the anti-war movement and swell the ranks of peace marchers.

Soviet women are in the front ranks of the peace champions. They extend a hand of friendship to all who oppose the arms race unleashed by the militarists and vehemently oppose war. Women in our country ardently support the party's foreign policy aimed at ensuring for the Soviet people the possibility of living and working in conditions of lasting peace. They back this policy of peace with their inspired labour and diligence.

Attributes of Socialist Self-Management Examined

PM241020 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Mar 86
First Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Our Own, Soviet Democracy"]

[Text] The strength of our system lies in the living creativity of the masses, in the increasingly broad participation of every citizen of the Land of the Soviets in state and public affairs. Without this it is impossible to resolve the tasks set by the 27th CPSU Congress and impossible to accelerate the country's socio-economic development. Democracy is the healthy and fresh air which is the only environment in which the socialist social organism can live and fully develop. The further democratization of society and deepening of the people's socialist self-management — this is the main avenue of our party's multi-faceted work in the political sphere.

The 27th CPSU Congress highly assessed the measures taken by the Central Committee to improve the political system of society. The scale of working people's participation in running the country's affairs is impressive. Some 2.3 million persons have been elected deputies to soviets at all levels. A vast public aktiv helps the work of organs of state power. Virtually the entire working population is united within the ranks of public organizations and various organizations for independent social activity by the masses. Now, however, it is not sufficient to remain satisfied with these "membership" figures, large though they may be. The party calls for an evaluation of what has been and is being done in this sphere not against the standards of yesterday, but against the scope and complexity of the new tasks. And these tasks, as the new edition of the CPSU Program notes, demand the consistent and steady development of the people's socialist self-management.

The congress documents profoundly and comprehensively substantiate and creatively develop Marxist-Leninist principles of socialist self-management. Their implementation in the daily practice of state and social life means that management must not only be in the interests of working people but must also become, step by step and as part of a law-governed process, the direct concern of working people themselves. This is the essence of Soviet power, of our socialist democracy. The Central Committee Political Report notes that self-management principles develop not outside but within our statehood, permeating increasingly deeply every single aspect of state and social life, enriching the content of democratic centralism, and consolidating its socialist nature.

The activity of soviets will acquire increasingly deep and varied content, and their considerable potential must be utilized more efficiently. Who else but they should be primarily concerned with the solution of the numerous problems of economic and cultural building and make a contribution to the implementation of the principle of social justice? It is necessary to follow even more resolutely the course of enhancing the role of soviet representative organs in mobilizing the masses for the acceleration of socioeconomic development and the solution of all questions affecting people's daily life and the satisfaction of their requirements and needs.

The party deems it necessary to elaborate in the nearest future measures aimed at intensifying the independence and responsibility of soviets, honing the machinery of interaction between territorial and sector organs, and improving electoral practices. It is necessary to deepen the democratic principle in management, to enhance accuracy and efficiency in the work of the state apparatus, and to resolutely eliminate any manifestations of departmentalism, parochialism, irresponsibility, bureaucracy, and a formalistically indifferent attitude toward people. It is important to make efficient use of the various forms enabling working people to monitor the activity of the management apparatus. Much can be done in this respect by trade unions, people's control workers, and the mass news media.

It was noted at the congress that the popular, creative, and independent nature of public organizations is far from fully utilized in our country. In many instances the organizations try to operate primarily through their staff apparatus, bureaucratically, and without adequately relying on the masses. The trade unions have vast potential and rights. Being the organization with

the largest mass membership, they are called upon to give more active help in the work to fulfill national economic plans, strengthen discipline, enhance labor productivity, and develop socialist competition. It is incumbent upon trade unions to defend the working people's legitimate interests more purposefully and with greater persistence and to participate in the implementation of the party's social policy.

The party rightly considers the Lenin Komsomol to be its militant assistant and reliable reserve. The CPSU will continue to enhance the Komsomol's role in the education of the growing generation and in the practical solution of the creative tasks of the whole people.

The congress also raised the question of creating new public organizations to represent the interests of large groups of the population such as women and the older generation. Women's councils and the all-union organization of war and labor veterans will be able to have a serious effect on the solution of a broad range of social questions concerning our society's life. The role of public organizations in the system of the people's socialist self-management will continue to rise steadily. The congress deemed it necessary to expand the range of questions which state organs can solve only with their participation or previous agreement, and also to grant them the right to suspend the operation of management decisions in a number of instances.

The party gives particular attention to the utilization of all forms of direct democracy, and primarily the galvanization of labor collectives, the creation of an atmosphere of socialist mutual assistance and exactingness in them, the inculcation among working people of the feeling of being masters of production enjoying full rights, and lofty responsibility for the performance of obligations to society. There must be a radical improvement of the machinery for the practical implementation of the democratic principles and norms enshrined in the Law on Labor Collectives, and the range of questions in which labor collectives' decisions are final must be expanded. The congress backed the proposal to create labor collective councils and also to gradually expand the practice of appointing leading workers at enterprises by election. A new impetus was given to the development of democratic principles in kolkhoz and cooperative self-management.

The party will improve the practice of nationwide discussion and voting on major issues affecting the country's life. It is necessary to submit local soviet decisions more often for consultation with people and also to make better use of such channels for the development of direct democracy as citizens' meetings, voters' instructions, working people's letters, and different means to ascertain public opinion. Work in the full light of publicity must become a faultlessly functioning system, so that everything done by the state and society is done subject to control by the people and in full view of the people.

Our mass news media constitute one of the most vivid manifestations of socialist democracy. It is hardly possible to find a single state outside the socialist system where the most acute problems of life are discussed so frankly and sincerely and with such keeninterest in the press, on television, and on the radio. This is indeed democracy in action.

Socialist democracy is inseparable from the most rigorous observance of laws, the strengthening of the legal basis of state and social life, and the guaranteed rights and freedoms of Soviet citizens. "People in the West are not averse to arguing about human rights violations in the USSR and alleged oppression," N. Gellert, a tractor driver from Kazakhstan, said from the 27th CPSU Congress rostrum. "Our reality fundamentally disproves these conjectures." But the essence of socialism is such that citizens' rights do not and cannot exist without their obligations, just as there can be no obligations without rights. It is necessary to boost the political standards of working people and the activeness of each and every person in our great creative work, in the overcoming of everything that runs contrary to our principles.

The Communist Party is the leading force and nucleus of our political system. Playing the leading role in society, it is itself the highest form of a self-managing sociopolitical organization. Expanding intraparty democracy and enhancing the activeness of Communists working in all components of the political system, the CPSU gives a correct orientation to the process of deepening the people's socialist self-management and expanding the participation of the masses and of every single person in the country's affairs. The party neither supplants nor duplicates state and social organs; it provides political leadership, defines the general prospects for society's development, and implements a principled cadres policy.

The development of the people's socialist self-management is the party's long-term strategic policy. The fulfillment of the historic decisions made by the 27th CPSU Congress will no doubt lead to new manifestations of people's initiative and new forms of sociopolitical creativity by the masses.

Briefs

Order Of Lenin — By decree of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, for services to the Communist Party and Soviet State and on the occasion of his 60th birthday, Yevgeniy Viktorovich Kachalovskiy, first deputy chairman of the Ukraine SSR Council of Ministers, has been awarded the Order of Lenin. [Text] [*Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 19 Mar 86 LD*]

Red Banner Of Labor — For his services in training highly-qualified specialists for the national economy, in developing geological science, and in connection with his 60th birthday, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has awarded Faik Mahmed Ogly Bagir-Zade, an academician of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences, the Order of the Red Banner of Labor. [Text] [*Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2105 GMT 19 Mar 86 LD*]

Scientist Advocates Organization of Soil Service
LD220537 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1705 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Interview with Viktor Abramovich Kovda, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Chemistry of Physiologically Active Compounds Department, by correspondent Mikhail Kustov from "The Problems of Acceleration" program; date and place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] In the CPSU Central Committee Political Report presented at the party's 27th congress, it was noted: It is necessary to raise the effectiveness of the agro-industrial complex' production potential and to focus efforts and resources on the most important sections, ensuring their highest return. Primarily, this concerns enhancing the land's fertileness and creating conditions for the stable running of agriculture. We have invited Viktor Abramovich Kovda, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and state prizewinner, to the studio today. Talking with him is our correspondent Mikhail Kustov.

[Kustov] Viktor Abramovich, it is planned to increase grain production in the 12th 5-Year Plan to 250-255 million metric tons. It is only possible to reach such high indices on the basis of a more efficient use of all land husbandry resources. What can you say about our fields' potential, and what kind of harvests can we have with skillful farming management?

[Kovda] If one refers to the ceiling now fixed by scientists for stated grain harvests, the harvest — the potential one, the one actually recieved at scientific establishments, and the future harvest — is already measured in metric tons and not in quintals [sentence as heard]. Approximately 20-25 metric tons per hectare is the potential to which we are already purposely aspiring. This is 10 times what we are getting at the moment.

[Kustov] Won't you agree that these harvests may be achieved in ideal conditions, on the best, most productive land, where the optimum conditions regarding water, heat, and feeding methods are guaranteed?

[Kovda] These harvests are already being obtained from field rice crops, sorghum, and wheat. But this is, so to speak, a distant prospect. The immediate prospect — a harvest of 50-60 quintals per hectare of grain, with no irrigation but with a high standard of land husbandry cultivation and thorough work alongside modern grain varieties — is being achieved by certain kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the Ukraine, North Caucasus, and Kuban. So, these harvests are a reality. But, alas, maybe only approximately 10 percent of the farms record these harvests.

[Kustov] Viktor Abramovich, what do you as a scientist mean by the concept of skillful farming management?

[Kozda] Well, first of all, the absolute necessity for complete familiarization with the soils and so on at a particular farm. Soil is a living organism. Every large farm should definitely have its own small agrochemical laboratory or agrosoil laboratory. It should be the right arm for the the chief agronomist, the kolkhoz chairman, or the sovkhoz director, informing those officials of scientific-technical matters over a daily, monthly, and yearly period and helping to elaborate a specific agro-industrial policy for every farm. Presently, everything is being done by blindfold in the majority of cases.

If the character of the the raw material and course of the production process is registered on a daily and hourly basis at a metallurgical enterprise and even more so at a more complicated coal-tar chemical works, then everything in land husbandry is done by eye, either in the old way or by the analogy of neighbors, or according to commands from above, without an accurate knowledge or understanding of the state of the topsoil and plants at a given moment or period. It is essential to sensibly and scientifically adapt the plants to local ecological conditions and to reject the low-yield ones, or bring about a radical improvement in the soil if necessary and develop agricultural machinery which functions with the accuracy of the chemist. There must be reliable [dostovernyy] initial information from both local organizations and farms for this and reliable statistical and cartographic information on the region, on the oblast, and on the country. Our statistics are not quite reliable. As is known, there are more than a few registrations [pripiska], concealed areas, and distortions, and quite a lot of primitive attitudes [primitivnost]. Therefore, a radical improvement in sending information from below to above, a guarantee that this information reflects the objective reality, is another important question in the state planning of tasks and in the prospects for a transition by means of an increasingly high level of production.

[Kustov] Viktor Abramovich, you have already said that a harvest of 50-60 quintals is received by individual farms, experienced farms.

[Kovda] Yes.

[Kustov] The average yield is a lot lower. What is the reason for this? Is it the incompetence or lack of desire on the part of certain farmers or some kind of indifference to the land?

[Kovda] Of course, in various conditions there are also a variety of reasons. But, there are some common ones. It seems to me that the overall standard of crops is rather low, I mean, the overall crops of our agronomists and managers in crop land husbandry [sentence as heard]. The feeling of responsibility is not sufficiently developed — I've been told to do it this way, and I'm doing it this way. This formal attitude is, I believe, the second reason.

Let's take the example of fertilizers, the application of fertilizer. We are already producing many fertilizers, but their return is frightfully low, 2 or 3 times lower than we had expected. Now, let's analyze how fertilizer is applied. The plan for distributing fertilizer is fulfilled. Fertilizer is, at best [v luchshikh sluchayev], applied on snow. Everyone understands that the snow will melt and the fertilizers will end up in a river or pond, and will then contaminate the drinking water. There are no stores for fertilizers. Fertilizers lie in the open air on storage piles at the majority of farms. They wash away into ravines and water over the years. Organic fertilizers are also applied on snow. Even now in the present season you can read information and even see on television how trucks are transporting fertilizers to snow. However, fertilizers do not just have to be applied but covered also.

Unfortunately, formal application of fertilizers including liming does not, naturally, have an effect, even in the black soil region. This is our own uncultivatedness [nekulturshchina]. The plan will be fulfilled: The tick has been put alongside the delivery to the fields: it is being distributed but has not reached the crops.

[Kustov] The reasons you have just outlined are very serious. Isn't it time, in your opinion, to introduce a special, efficient service for soil conservation?

[Kovda] It would have been time to do it about 10, 15, or 20 years ago. Then all those thousands of millions that we have put into farms would have produced the expected effect. Unfortunately, our proposals, which have been handed in, are still being examined and have not yet been resolved. We are always requesting that high-ranking departments examine the question of creating a unified soil service as part of the agro-industrial complex. The service would be responsible for taking stock, assessing, protecting, and pointing out the correct usage, the correct bookkeeping, the effective reaction of fields to the capital investment, and the irrigation and agrotechnical methods undertaken. Such a service is absolutely essential.

Land Irrigation, Improvement To Increase

LD211434 Moscow TASS in English 1413 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, March 21 TASS — Another more than 100 thousand hectares of land will be irrigated in the Soviet Union beginning from spring this year. Water will come to new fields sown to wheat, maize and vegetables in the southern steppes of the Ukraine, the Northern Caucasus and the northern reaches of the Volga. The oases in the deserts of Soviet Central Asia will become larger.

Control has been toughened now over land improvement work. The guidelines for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1986-1990 and the Period Ending in the Year 2000, which were endorsed by the 27th Congress of the CPSU, provide for a rise in the technical standards and quality of water management construction. Until now much water was wasted. The government demanded that measures be outlined and carried out to accelerate the transition to a water saving irrigation technology.

All this is a challenge to the land irrigation organizations and calls for additional spending. Yet the state has not given up the original plan for the current five-year plan period — to bring to plough 3.3 million hectares of irrigated and 3.6 million hectares of drained lands.

This large-scale work is explained by the fact that the country has practically no lands that need no measures to overcome unfavourable weather conditions. Nearly 60 per cent of farmland in the USSR is in insufficient moistening zones, whereas in the USA such lands make only ten per cent. In the northern regions of the USSR 80 million hectares of land suffer from overmoistening and lack of warmth. The most favourable areas, where the length of the vegetation period is 170 days, make only 15 per cent of all farmland, whereas in the USA they make 70 per cent.

These are the objective factors necessitating "nature improvement" large-scale work for the irrigation and drainage of land. Eleven per cent of ameliorated lands now give a third of the gross output of the country's plan breeding. The state has set aside for land improvement more than 50 billion roubles, twenty per cent of all capital investments in Soviet agriculture, for the current five-year plan period (1986-1990). Therefore the state demands that the land improvement measures should be most effective as regards the productivity of lands.

Agricultural Developments for 20-23 Mar Reported

LD240415 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR broadcast by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 20-23 March. Times of broadcast appear in parentheses at the end of each item.

20 March

Having expanded the areas of cultivation of grain in accordance with intensive technology, the machine operators of Rostov Oblast have pledged to sell 3.2 million metric tons of grain, including 1.5 million metric tons of strong and valuable wheat varieties, to the state this year. (1600 GMT)

Stavropol Agroprom has completed readying corn seeds for spring sowing. Almost 40,000 metric tons of corn seeds have been calibrated, one-quarter of this having been dispatched to other regions of the country. Stavropol Kray farmers set aside 110,000 hectares to this industrial crop. Front-ranking corn growers are planning to obtain no less than 100 quintals of grain from each irrigated hectare. (1600 GMT)

21 March

The farms of Belorussia have begun the vernalization of seed potatoes. The timely sprouting of the tubers accelerates by 10-15 days the ripening of early varieties and makes it possible to harvest as early as the end of June. (0100 GMT)

Uzbekistan: The first several hundred hectares were sown to corn in Fergana Valley today. Individual farms in the North Cauasus are sowing early crops. South Ukraine: Winter crops are being top-dressed. (1200 GMT)

A seminar on the development of subsidiary farms at tractor and agricultural machine-building enterprises is being held at the VDNKH [Main Committee for Exhibition of Achievements of the National Economy] exhibition center in Moscow today. There are now 150 such farms in the industry. Over the 5-year period, meat production went up 4.5 times and milk production 2 times at these farms. (1200 GMT)

Stavropol farms began mass sowing of early grain and pulse crops today. (1900 GMT)

22 March

The preparation of equipment for spring sowing on Krasnoyarsk Kray farms has been completed. Particular attention was paid to machines for sowing wheat which will cover an area of 660,000 hectares. (0100 GMT)

A new state farm in the Kolkhida lowlands, Zolotoye Runo, has been given 600 hectares of drained land. Spring planting of heat-loving plants — tea and citrus crops — has begun on them today. The farm should become a leading producer of subtropical produce. As calculated, Kolkhida will be giving nearly twice as much output from crop and livestock farming by the year 2000 as it does now. (1000 GMT)

23 March

Altay area corn growers have decided to produce 960,000 metric tons of wheat above plan this year. New technology will be introduced at every kolkhoz and sovkhoz. An area of 1.2 million hectares, the largest one in Siberia, has been set aside for grain there. (1900 GMT)

Cereals have been sown on 200,000 hectares in Uzbekistan thus far this spring. (1930 GMT)

Briefs

Irrigated Land — The area of irrigated land in the Soviet Union this year will grow by a further 100,000 hectares. Water will come to wheat-, corn-, and vegetable-growing areas in the southern plains of the Ukraine, to North Caucasus, and to the lower reaches of the Volga River. In the next five years the Soviet Union will irrigate 3.3 million hectares and carry out drainage work on another 3.6 million hectares of land. This is explained by the fact that practically all farming lands in the USSR need some or other agrotechnical operations aimed at their improvement. [Text] [*Moscow TASS in English 0830 GMT 19 Mar 86 LD*]

Arable Land Protected — A broad 250-km forest shelter-belt will protect the arable land of Central Ferghana (Soviet Central Asia) against desert winds. The planting of more than a million poplar, plane and mulberry trees has been started there. The special interest in that problem is determined by the fact that forest belts in the arid conditions of Central Asia protect farmland from hot winds and drifting sand, perform the functions of biological drainage, and improve the water and thermal conditions of soil. Thus, for example, shelter-belts protect cotton crops and ensure a 7-10 percent increase in cotton yield per hectare. [Text] [*Moscow TASS in English 1026 GMT 22 Mar 86*]

'Cosmos-1737' Earth Satellite Launched 25 Mar

LD260919 Moscow TASS in English 0915 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Moscow, March 26 TASS — The artificial earth satellite *Cosmos-1737* was launched in the Soviet Union on Tuesday. The satellite, intended to continue the space exploration programme, was put into orbit with the following parametres: the initial period of revolution — 91 minutes, the maximum distance from the surface of the earth — 442 kilometres, the minimum distance from the surface of the earth — 230 kilometres, the inclination of the orbit — 73 degrees. The equipment is functioning normally.

Cosmonautics Specialist Describes 'Mir' Structure

LD261011 Moscow TASS in English 0941 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Leningrad, March 26 TASS — The well-known specialist in cosmonautics Academician Boris Raushenbakh has compared the new Soviet orbital scientific station *Mir* with a constructor set for children, which enables one to assemble structures of different size and configuration out of standard parts. The academician made here a report on the occasion of the coming 25th anniversary of the flight of the world's first cosmonaut, Yuriy Gagarin. (*Mir* was put into orbit on February 20, this year, and its first crew — Leonid Kizim and Vladimir Solovev have been working aboard the station since March 15.) Six assembly joints provide only the foundation for assemblying in orbit a much bigger number of modules designed for experiments of the most different purpose, said the academician. The equipment of the *Mir* living compartments enables cosmonauts to stay in outer space for an infinitely long time.

Why did designers opt for "assemblying" the station out of modules? Is it not simpler to build a one big station? Big space stations convenient for habitat, become inconvenient for work, said the academician. They do not have sufficient manoeuvrability for guiding instruments to objects to be explored on earth and in outer space. Radiation from equipment, movement of cosmonauts in the station create obstacles to particularly sophisticated experiments linked, for instance, with production of super pure substances and growth of bacterial cultures. Therefore, it is planned to built specialised automatic modules. They will operate according to preset programmes and only from time to time dock with the station to hand over "produce", check the instruments, boost charging energy systems. The telescope of such a module — "astronomer", for instance could be guided to celestial bodies with a precision of up to one-hundredth of second of arc.

USSR Academy of Sciences Meeting Reported

PM241321 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 86
First Edition p 2

[TASS Report: "Source of Progress. Annual General Meeting of the USSR Academy of Sciences"]

[Text] A decisive shift toward work in the new way over the entire front of scientific research — this is the chief motif of speeches by the country's leading scientists at the annual general meeting of the USSR Academy of Sciences, which on 20 March continued its discussion of the tasks of Soviet science in fulfilling the 27th CPSU Congress decisions.

Academician G.K. Skryabin, chief scientific secretary of the USSR Academy of Sciences Presidium, delivered a report on the academy's activitiy in 1985. He said that good scientific groundwork has been created for the subsequent development of research aimed at developing new equipment and technology for key sectors of the national economy.

The speaker noted the most vivid achievements of scientists in various spheres of science. These include the successful implementation of the international "Venus-Halley's Comet" project, when two Soviet "Vega" stations passed close to Halley's Comet and brought world science valuable data.

Touching on questions of utilizing the achievements of science in practice, G.K. Skryabin reported that in the 11th 5-Year Plan approximately 1,200 developments by academy institutes were introduced into the national economy. But many works are still not undergoing large-scale introduction. Not all ministries show proper interest in scientific and technical innovations or in enhancing their sectors' technical standards.

Speaking of enhancing the efficiency of scientific activity, the speaker pointed out that the present system for assessing scientific employees is not very effective. The training of scientific cadres also needs improving. The subjects of dissertations are still not always connected with solving the most urgent fundamental and applied problems.

Today it is necessary to concentrate scientific forces and material resources in the most important, priority directions. This is particularly important in connection with the start of work on implementing the Comprehensive Program of the CEMA Countries' Scientific and Technical Progress Through the Year 2000.

The first and chief aim of all the academy's activity is the development of fundamental research — the source of acceleration. The second task is to reveal fundamentally new paths of scientific and technical progress and to create the scientific preconditions for realizing them. The academy's third function is to study and generalize the achievements of world science and to promote the fullest utilization of these results in practice. All our activity must be subordinated to successfully realizing these functions, the speaker said in conclusion. This will ensure the fulfillment of the crucial tasks set by the 27th CPSU Congress.

Academician I.A. Glebov's speech was devoted to the role of science in implementing the Leningrad "Intensification-90" program and to questions of combining sectorial and territorial management. Automation making extensive use of computer technology is at the forefront of this program. The Siberian Department of the USSR Academy of Sciences is seeking new potential for accelerating and expanding access to the national economy, Academician V.A. Koptyug emphasized. Siberian science will be developed in the direction of strengthening the experimental-design production base and creating intersectorial scientific and technical complexes and engineering centers.

Questions of intensifying fundamental research were raised in Academician Ye.P. Velikhov's speech. In connection with this task he noted the increasing role of scientific instrument making. A statewide program, whose implementation will make it possible to really intensify research, is now being drawn up in this important direction Speaking about the problems associated with setting up intersectorial scientific and technical complexes, the speaker pointed out that it is necessary to create conditions under which a scientific establishment would be responsible not only for a development and an experimental model but also for the quality of products in series production.

Laboratories and institutes are the chief component in our work, Academician Yu.A. Ovchinnikov emphasized. Here efforts must be concentrated more energetically in the chief directions. The speaker noted the need to strengthen the material base of academy science. Touching on the potential of modern biology, he reported that today it is possible to create new medicinal preparations in 6 months using genetic engineering methods, but, unfortunately, it will take 10-12 years to test and verify them. Our health care system could renew the arsenal of medicines more quickly if we succeeded in improving the system for verifying new preparations.

The general meeting of the USSR Academy of Sciences is continuing its work.

Nuclear Waste Plant Processes Described

PM211127 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Mar 86
Second Edition p 6

[TASS correspondents V. Itkin, L. Chernenko "Reportage From an Unusual Enterprise": "'Radon' Without Secrets"]

[Text] Moscow Oblast — This enterprise near Moscow, which is called "Radon," does not make a product. It buries it — hiding it as deeply and as safely as possible in the ground, behind blocks of concrete, protecting it with lead armor...

The vehicle sped alone, the red flasher winking. "We are past kilometer 20, all is well," driver Viktor Sidortsov reported over the radio, glancing at the needles on the instruments. The distant controller, marking the passing of control points according to his reports, "drove" the vehicle along the route. The yellow Volga of the State Motor Vehicle Inspection Administration went ahead, signaling and forging a path for it. Sidortsov gripped the steering wheel tightly. On his first trips the tension was so great that even when he reached his destination he could not immediately take his hands off the wheel. After all, behind his back, separated from the cab by a lead barrier, were containers with a dangerous cargo. That is the "raw material" for the enterprise: It is engaged in rendering radioactive waste harmless.

It is well known that in our day radioactive substances are being used increasingly widely in science, industry, and agriculture. Our country pioneered the peaceful use of the atom. Now they use radiation to raise new crop varieties, obtain materials with specific properties, detect defects in various articles, and diagnose diseases and even treat them. But the use of such methods in clinics, institutes, and enterprises results in radioactive waste. Although the volumes are insignificant and the activeness low, the spent sources must be removed and rendered harmless. Special vehicles collect them and deliver them to "Radon."

"Radioactivity cannot be eliminated. The decay of variouselements takes hundreds of years, and throughout that time they must be removed from the environment," L. Khomchik, deputy general director of the "Radon" science and production association, explained. "Our association plays the part of a kind of 'isolation unit' for dangerous substances. It has been made to last for centuries — literally. The concrete storage chambers are destined to remain for hundreds of years before their contents become safe. Radioactive decay will take place deep within them for 300 or even 500 years, but here in 'Radon' its terrible power will do no harm..."

Nonetheless, there was a sense of hidden danger when, dressed in white coats and equipped with dosimeters resembling fountain pens, we crossed the border between the "clean" zone and the "radiation" zone.

Snow was falling silently, and you could not believe that beneath the snowdrifts, walls made of concrete and lead extinguish harmful, invisible rays. But L. Khomchik and "Radon's" chief engineer V. Chebyshev, who led this unusual excursion, have become accustomed over many years of work to signs reading "Caution, Radioactivity!"

"Just as a welder works with fire and an electrician with electricity, we work with radioactive substances," Leonid Mikhaylovich says. "As in everything, knowledge and experience are needed here..."

You realize how true that is when you see "Radon's" shops and laboratories., It is everyday, measured work.

A press took large packages of waste into its humming maw, grumbled with the tense effort of many tons, and spat out a little briquette. Its volume was nearly 10 times smaller.

In a neighboring shop furnaces faced with shining steel plates hummed. After passing through the fire, the waste becomes 20-100 times smaller in volume. The gases enter a labyrinthine purification system and go through dozens of filters.

Looking through the inspection window into one of the furnaces, you can see the flames raging in the chamber.

The counter began to click as we approached baths filled with something resembling cold asphalt. This devil's brew was recently bubbling away in the bituminizers [bitumatory]. That is how liqud waste is made solid — otherwise, it cannot be buried safely.

Behind a massive iron door, a spacious hall similar to a hangar was revealed. The concrete floor slabs suggested a huge chessboard. In the center, the isolated figure of a crane turret rose. Each square concealed an invisible, dangerous force. But it is shut into this "board" for hundreds of years. Centuries later the "state of play" will remain unchanged, unless people find some other way of "beating" nature and taming the harmful rays.

Meanwhile, the crane lowers the black boxes of waste into the deths of the underground storage chambers concealed behind mighty slabs. The path of the radiation is blocked by metal, ferroconcrete, and the ground, which also serves as a natural clay and loam barrier. The site for "Radon" was not chosen casually: Everything was taken into account — the ground, the relief, the "wind rose."

That is why, at a nearby pond, fishermen sit by the ice holes, and in summer mushrooms and berries are plentiful in the surrounding forests. The powerful defenses reduce the enterprise's effects on the environment to a minimum, and sensitive instruments constantly monitor its condition. Sensors link the radiation safety computer with the "Radon" shops and laboratories. There are warning devices in the corridors and in all the installations. Section chief Aleksandr Shurkus is on duty at the center today. He is surrounded by dozens of instruments and hundreds of little flashing lights and VDU screens. All this enables Aleksandr to obtain the necessary information instantaneously.

Every worker at "Radon" has his personal code. By calling it up on the screen you can find out what dose of radiation the person has received during his work. Aleksandr typed out "A. Pryakhina" on the VDU keyboard. The computing device immediately typed out some figures.

"In 20 years' work at 'Radon' this laboratory assistant has not accumulated even the annual dose which is harmless to health," Shurkus says. "Let us take another profession. Here, for instance, we have A. Bystrov, a special vehicle driver. The picture is the same: In 25 years' work at the association he has 'collected' only a maximum annual dose..."

"No occupational diseases have been noted at 'Radon,'" L. Khomchik explains. "We are sometimes asked: How does this work affect health and fertility? My answer is that at the moment we are short of places in the kindergartens. The second generation of workers is now coming into the association. Their fathers and mothers still work here. Cadre turnover is practically nil at 'Radon.'"

But is it not a paradox that, on the one hand, strict radiation protection measures are elaborated and even minimal radiation doses are counted up, while on the other hand nuclear megatons are being stockpiled which are capable of destroying all life many times over and contaminating the entire planet with radioactivity.

Background radiation has always existed on earth. A stream of particles bearing radiation constantly bombards us from space. Keeping it at its previous level and preventing any increase is a difficult, but essential, vitally important task for mankind in the nuclear age. From diagrams which are compiled at "Radon" you can see how the nature of global radioactive fallout in atmospheric precipitation changes over the years. Here the link between the natural climate and the political climate is clearly discernible. The peak comes in the early sixties, when nuclear tests were still being carried out in the atmosphere. From 1963, from the time of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space, and Underwater, radioactive fallout was reduced. The period of detente — the seventies — saw a marked fall. Then a new upsurge...

Incidentally, at "Radon," the graveyard for radioactive waste, you can also see the procedure for the destruction of nuclear weapons.

"We have organized similar work for rendering harmless and burying radioactive waste from the national economy," I. Sobolev, general director of the "Radon" association says. "This experience would help us find technical solutions for rendering nuclear charges harmless also. Their nuclear fuel could be used for power generation at peaceful AES's, and the waste safely buried. The technical solution will be found..."

On the general director's desk was a letter from Japan. Masao Segawa, president of the Organization for the Development of the Japanese Nuclear Power Industry, requested permission to visit the Moscow Oblast association and study its work methods and radiation protection system. French experts are also showing interest in our achievements. "Radon" is conducting a number of operations under contract for the IAEA. We have no "nuclear secrets" here. Environmental protection is the task of all mankind.

...Leaving the radioactive "graveyard," we found ourselves embraced by a sensitive instrument similar to an X-ray machine. It clung to us for a moment and then let go. The green panel lit up: "Clean."

"Clean!" — will mankind give this sigh of relief as it greets the third millennium, having rid the planet of nuclear weapons? That is the main question of today.

Briefs

Fast Breeder Reactor Manufactured — The Atommash production association in Volgodonsk has started manufacturing a fast-breeder reactor, (?DN-800). This is an innovation in Soviet nuclear power engineering. There already are functioning fast-breeder reactors at Mangyshlak, in the town of Shevchenko, and in the Urals, Sverdlovsk Oblast, but their capacity is far smaller. [Summary][*Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0700 GMT 22 Mar 86 LD*]

Drinking Water From Seawater — Odessa, March 22 TASS — The Soviet motorship *Professor Kostryukov* has sailed out on a long voyage carrying only an emergency stock of drinking water — in defiance of the longstanding regulations to have enough water supplies to last the whole trip. On board the vessel, drinking water will be made from seawater. Research workers of Odessa, a port-city on the Black Sea, have devised a special plant which is connected to on-board distillers that treat water for cooling ship engines. The plant produces water in no way inferior to that from a city pipeline. [Text][*Moscow TASS in English 1048 GMT 22 Mar 86 LD*]

Defense Ministry Aktiv Meeting Discusses Congress

PM241502 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Mar 86 Second Edition p 2

[Correspondent Colonel V. Pokholenchuk report: "To Think and Work in a New Fashion. Meeting of the USSR Ministry of Defense Party Aktiv"]

[Text] The most essential matter that it is necessary to concentrate the entire force of party influence on today is ensuring that every Communist and every serviceman understands the tense and crucial nature of the time in which we are living. The times make it incumbent upon us to think and work in a new fashion, to persistently translate the energy of the party's innovative designs into the energy of specific actions in the entrusted sector of work. This is how you could describe the central line of a meeting of the USSR Ministry of Defense party aktiv at which Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister, delivered a report on the results of the 27th CPSU Congress and tasks in fulfilling of its decisions.

Noting that the congress demonstrated the party's loyalty to Marxism-Leninism and its creative wisdom, political realism, forward-looking approach, and historical responsibility for the fate of peace, the speaker said:

"The 27th party congress unambiguously determined the defensive orientation of our military doctrine and highly assessed the present state of the Army and Navy and their sociopolitical role. The Central Committee Political Report, which was delivered at the congress by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, emphasized that Armed Forces personnel, having modern armaments and equipment at their disposal, fittingly perform their duty in complex and, at times, harsh conditions. At the same time, the congress, taking into account the growing aggressiveness of reactionary imperialist forces, adopted a decision to continue giving unflagging attention to the strengthening of the country's defense, the enhancement of the USSR Armed Forces' combat might, the intensification of vigilance, and the strengthening of military discipline. These demands constitute an action program for us."

Marshal of the Soviet Union S.F. Akhromeyev, Admiral of the Fleet V.N. Chernavin, Colonel General M.D. Popkov, Marshal of Engineering Troops N.F. Shestopalov, Colonel V.I. Kazakov, Colonel General M.K. Makartsev, Colonel V.A. Maslov, Army General A.D. Lizichev, Lieutenant General of Aviation B.F. Korolkov, and Colonel General of Aviation I.M. Maltsev took part in the debate on the report.

The main speaker and the other speakers emphasized that the entire complex of political, socioeconomic, and ideological questions examined at the party forum concerns the Armed Forces' activity most directly. It is necessary to learn objective lessons from the congress' analysis of topical problems and criticism of shortcomings and to draw conclusions for the resolution of current tasks. A particular role in their implementation has to be played by party organizations in the Ministry of Defense central apparatus. The congress directives concerning the need to resolutely raise the level of work by party organizations at ministries and departments and to step up their influence on the restructuring of the management apparatus' activity apply fully to these organizations.

What has to be done in the first place. To review previous work and its results on a principled and self-critical basis from the positions of modern demands, to re-evaluate achievements with a view to avoiding the mistakes of the past, and to bring to light and make active use of hitherto unutilized reserves and potential. Party organizations must take a resolute stand against the inertia of complacency.

Examining questions of operational, mobilization, combat, and political training, of supplying troops and naval forces with combat equipment, of the development of military science, of organizing military cooperation, and others, the participants in the party aktiv meeting self-critically noted the bottlenecks and spoke about the reserves which must be utilized. Emphasis was placed with particular urgency on the responsibility of central apparatus workers for a principled and creative attitude toward work and for a modern style of activity. This will largely determine how efficiently all other management links operate and, ultimately, how successfully the tasks facing the Armed Forces are fulfilled.

Now is the time to pursue the quest for new approaches in everything. The demands made of combat training must be resolutely enhanced. In this connection it is important to improve the criteria for its evaluation. These criteria must encourage commanders and commanding officers to prepare for an operation or battle comprehensively and creatively and to seek methods for actions which the enemy does not expect. The purpose of every exercise is not only to be just another step in training but also to generate new ideas and lead to nontraditional solutions. This is why new questions must be boldly posed in combat training, staffs must operate under greater pressure, and a resolute struggle must be waged against the desire to cover up inadequacies in troop training behind inflated assessments.

It was noted during the meeting that the main causes of negative phenomena are rooted in the fact that account is not always taken of the changes that have occurred in the nature of modern combat or of the pressing problems demanding profound changes in the training and education of troops and naval forces personnel. Attempts are often made to resolve new tasks by old methods, even though they no longer do produce or can produce the expected results. Some officials speak of restructuring but change nothing in practice. All this cannot fail to be perceived as shortcomings in the activity of central apparatus political organs. Energetic efforts are needed to implement the reorientation of thinking, of cadres' mentality, and of the style and methods of work in the spirit of the demands of the time.

Questions involving restructuring occupied a considerable part of the report and other speeches. After all, the 27th CPSU Congress defined restructuring as an issue of paramount importance. It is necessary, people said at the meeting, to establish in every party organization an atmosphere of creativity, principled exactingness, and self-criticism, together with a quest for new and effective solutions to existing problems. Things must be called by their proper names, everything must be judged without

equivocation, superiors and personnel must be supplied with objective information, and there must be lofty exactingness toward oneself and honesty at all times and in all things. The changes which are so necessary today must begin at the top level which, as far as workers in central apparatus are concerned, means themselves.

The germs of new approaches can already be observed but, on the whole, the process of renewing the forms and methods of work is proceeding slowly and must be accelerated. The demand is that all elements of army and navy life must be rid of formalism, generation of paperwork, inertia, a mania for meetings, the "lumping together" approach toward people, and enthusiasm for general measures or ineffective inspections. Inertia is like shackles, hindering many people today. To activate the human factor — and the congress defined it as the decisive factor in the fulfillment of tasks facing the party and the country — means to improve work with people performing their work and responsible for the sector entrusted to them. Bearing in mind that only the living creativity of the masses can ensure acceleration, it is necessary to enhance the effectiveness of socialist competition and of all ideological means for boosting the businesslike activeness of people.

Much depends on the problems of work with cadres. Communists in cadre organs — both in the Main Cadres Directorate and in the branches of armed forces — must draw the necessary conclusions from the congress results. In the selection and placement of cadres the last few years have seen errors attributable to inadequate study of people's political, moral, and professional qualities, and at times even to lack of principledness. We must be better in selecting people, monitor their work more strictly, and assist them; the opinion of immediate superiors and of party organizations must be taken more fully into account when solving cadre questions.

The congress demanded that organization and discipline be strengthened and firm order be imposed everywhere. We must resolve this task, the participants in the meeting said, by elaborating major new fundamental solutions and measures and by implementing them energetically. It is necessary to put an end to instances when the central apparatus pushes subordinates into thwarting plans as a result of inadequately considered actions and instructions, or generates an atmosphere of disorganization which eventually makes itself felt in subordinate components. Unfortunately, the main efforts in the strengthening of discipline are still oriented toward drawing up all kinds of plans and holding numerous explanatory events, meetings, and conferences. It is necessary to effect a sharp change in this approach and to move from appeals and assurances to specific practical actions.

The paramount tasks also include the enhancement of officers' personal discipline and responsibility and of Communists' vanguard role, the galvanization of the army and navy Komsomol, and the improvement of party political work. There must be no slackening of the struggle against drunkenness or of the work to establish a sober way of life. It was emphasized that instead of taking commanders and chiefs of political organs and staffs to task only for incidents that have already occurred, it is necessary to hold them responsible for preconditions for such incidents which are created as a result of the negligence of officials, omissions in service organization, and nonfulfillment of duties imposed by the regulations. It is necessary to strengthen the principle of one-man command. A more active role in the boosting of discipline must be played by leading cadres, military councils, staffs, political organs and party organizations, cadres and rear services organs, engineering and technical services, military lawyers, and public organizations.

The resolution of questions pertaining to discipline and combat training depends largely on the leadership of troops' daily life and its correct organization in all respects. Not everything is properly resolved here. There are serious omissions in the work of rear services organs. Capital construction requires considerable improvement. Tasks concerning the improvement of facilities and troops' everyday life are not being fulfilled sufficiently purposefully.

The paramount task today, it was said at the meeting, is to propagandize and explain the congress materials actively and to a high standard, to make the personnel familiar with the spirit and essence of its decisions, and to organize their practical implementation. Communists must arm themselves with the entire rich arsenal of ideas contained in the CPSU Program, the Central Committee Political Report to the congress, and the other documents, and follow them in their daily activity.

Everything must be aimed at achieving in practice a fundamental improvement in the quality of training of the Armed Forces and the further strengthening of their combat potential. This must be the response of Army and Navy Communists to the 27th CPSU Congress decisions.

The meeting adopted a resolution defining the specific immediate and long-term tasks of party organizations in the central apparatus.

A.N. Soshnikov, deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee section, took part in the meeting's work.

General Shkadov Examines Military VUZ Training

PM241136 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Mar 86 First Edition p 2

[Article by Army General I. Shkadov, USSR deputy defense minister for cadres: "Matter of Great Importance; VUZ Enrollment to the Level of Present-Day Demands"]

[Text] The life and activity of Soviet Armed Forces servicemen, and of our entire people, are determined today by the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress. Ardently approving the party's domestic and foreign policy, and its strategic line of accelerating the country's socioeconomic development, they are fully resolved through their selfless military labor to enhance the motherland's combat might, seeing their task first and foremost as, each at their own post, making their own personal contribution to the implementation of congress directives through specific deeds.

The leading role in the fulfillment of the complex and responsible tasks that the Armed Forces have been set by the party is played by officer cadres, who form the basis and backbone of the Army

and Navy. Our people call officers people of a heroic calling, seeing them as worthy heirs of the glorious revolutionary, combat, and labor traditions of older generations.

A special place in the training and formation of officer cadres goes to military training establishments, the improvement of whose activity is the subject of unremitting attention at all stages of the Soviet Armed Forces' development. Today they are faced with new and more responsible tasks.

The 27th CPSU Congress posed the task of restructuring higher and secondary specialized education. As the Central Committee Political Report notes, the party is faced, in particular, with training specialists to present-day standards with basic theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

The high demands made on higher education apply fully to military training establishments also.

In recent years the Army and Navy have carried out a number of measures to improve the system of officer cadre training and to improve the number of students attending military training establishments. However, the demands made on military cadres are constantly growing. They are particularly high at the contemporary stage of the Armed Forces' development. The concept of accelerating the country's socioeconomic development on the basis of the achievements of scientific and technical progress has the most direct bearing on the Army and Navy. Scientific and technical progress is turning into one of the determining factors in the development of military matters and the strengthening of the Armed Forces' combat might.

All this persistently requires improvements in professional military competence and the enhancement of officer cadres' work style. Thus, life itself dictates the need to further improve higher military education and restructure the training and educational process at military training establishments. One of the most important ways of resolving this task is undoubtedly to involve front-ranking detachments of young workers, kolkhoz members, students, and servicemen in military training establishments and to ensure high quality in professional selection. After all, the effectiveness of the training and educational process and, ultimately, the standard of the training of officer cadres depend to a considerable extent on the quality of the students at VUZes. That is why it is extremely important for military training establishments to be made up of young men distinguished by high moral qualities, an active life stance, robust physical fitness, and good general education.

The professional selection of candidates for entry to VUZes stipulates a range of measures that make it possible to select, t from a large contingent of young people, those who in their moral, political, physical, and psychological qualities; standard of education; and state of health are able to become skillful officers and make most effective use in their practical work of the knowledge they gain during their period of service in the troops and the navy.

Military activity is specific. It is linked with the difficult duty of being constantly prepared to take up arms to defend the motherland. This requires the highest criteria in assessing human qualities. That is why it is very important in making a professional selection to determine how consciously and thoughtfully a candidate has made his life choice, how great is his desire to enter the VUZ, and whether he is prepared — irrespective of all difficulties — to persistently master the complex training program and subsequently carry out his military duty as an officer to the best of his ability. The conscious choice made by a young man of the vocation of officer combined with the knowledge and natural and acquired qualities and skills necessary for military service are the main conditions for success in achieving the set goal. Such a young man is immune to disappointment; he will not flee in the face of difficulties. Of such people we can say with respect: The vocation of officer is their calling.

To correctly bring that calling to fruition and help the young man shape a stable desire to implement his cherished dream is an ongoing task. This work is protracted and is carried out in the process of a well-defined military and vocational orientation which offers young people a revelation of the great social purport and heroic labor of Soviet officers and the molding on that basis of the desire to devote one's life to the armed defense of the socialist motherland.

Military training establishments and commanders and political workers in units and formations must carry out the military and professional orientation, instruction, and selection of candidates from among servicemen; with civilian young people this work must be organized and conducted by VUZes in close collaboration with military commissariats and with the involvement of army and navy veterans and military leaders at schools, technical colleges, and vocational and technical colleges directly at enterprises, kolkhozes and sovkhozes, educational establishments, and DOSAAF organizations.

I would like to stress this point: Throughout this work it is important not just to gear young people toward choosing the vocation of officer but, on the basis of their propensities, abilities, and other individual characteristics, to help them choose a specific military speciality. Young people must be attracted by the dream not just of becoming officers but of becoming, say, pilots, submariners, tank officers, or signals officers to ensure they have a clear idea of the specific qualities they must acquire and what is expected of them in training and service before reaching college. And, naturally, to ensure they prepare themselves for this.

Analysis of the work to enroll students in VUZes shows that the existing system of military and vocational orientation and selection as a whole accords with the demands made on the training of politically mature, ideologically tempered, and highly qualified officer cadres. However, there are also substantial shortcomings in this work. This concerns, primarily, the enrollment in VUZes of candidates drawn from among draftees. As is well known, they are given certain advantages when enrolling in military training establishments. That is no accident. Young men who have been through the school of army life choose officer service as their vocation in a more conscious way, and the experience they have amassed in the troops helps them master the fundamentals of political, military, and technical knowledge more profoundly and to a higher standard. As a rule they are outstanding students and pacesetters in socialist competition.

But one also encounters cases of a different type. Thus, already this year three students drawn from former draftees have been expelled from the M.V. Frunze Higher Combined Arms Command School in Kiev for a lack of discipline and an unwillingness to study. There have been similar cases at the Marshal of the Soviet Union K.K. Rokosovskiy Far Eastern Higher Combined Arms Command School and the Chelyabinsk Higher Tank Command School named for the 50th anniversary of Great October. Analysis shows that behind each of these cases lie shortcomings and sometimes, even patent irresponsibility permitted in carrying out professional selection both in the VUZes themselves and in the military collectives where the expelled students previously served.

Obviously the time has come to put the question in this way: Along with the VUZ leadership each commander, political worker, and relevant officer at staff and cadre organs must feel personal responsibility for those they select as candidates for entry into military training establishments. It is no secret that in a number of military districts certain officials, who, as the saying goes, are duty bound to select candidates, approach this important matter formalistically and in a slipshod fashion. The committees created in certain units and formations to professionally select candidates often work poorly and in an unplanned way year in year out and adopt a superficial approach to the individual studies of servicemen who have expressed a desire to enter VUZes. As a result servicemen who, in terms of their businesslike and moral qualities, do not meet the admission regulations are sent to study. High-quality medical tests of candidates, particularly at air and naval colleges, have not yet been organized everywhere.

Instances of local self-interest in sending for studies servicemen who have expressed a desire to become officers cannot fail to cause concern. On various and sometimes farfetched pretexts they are retained in their units and conditions are not created for training them for student examinations, as laid down by the relevant provisions and instructions. Yet this training is an important stage in work with selected candidates. It must be carried out according to special plans, starting in October-December through to the entrance examinations, and end with training courses organized on a district-wide scale.

Where these matters are well organized there are no shortcomings in professional selection and the colleges do not receive any casual entrants. Take, for instance, the Transcaucasus Military District. Last year the organization of courses there was not comprehensively thought out, the study groups were unwieldy, and they were not adequately provided with literature and other teaching aids. Political and educational work with the candidate students also left something to be desired. All this led to many servicemen who had dreamed of becoming officers not entering college.

Here mention must also be made of another reason why many of the candidates selected in units were not enrolled in VUZes by visiting admission committees — low-quality handling of the personal details of the servicemen. Certain committees lacked character references and other documents, which prevented them from making a comprehensive assessment of many candidates and, consequently, from making the relevant decision. As a result, many of the candidates, having been disappointed, abandoned their dream and the trips these servicemen had made to and from the course centers cost the state a great deal.

It is necessary to do everything to ensure that such failings are not committed this year. Army and Navy political organs and party organizations are called upon to play a weighty role in this.

The well-organized selection of candidates from among civilian young people is also of great importance in the training of military cadres. Among those entering VUZes are many young men recommended by the Komsomol — production front-rankers, outstanding students, and social activists. It is laudable that many Komsomol organizations in the Ukraine, Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Tataria, and in Leningrad, Kursk, Kuybyshev, Chelyabinsk, and other oblasts have established close contacts with military training establishments and hold joint events with representatives of military colleges and students, young workers, and kolkhoz members. These contacts enhance the effectiveness of the professional military orientation of young people and promote a more conscious choice of career by young people.

The main role in professional selection and enrollment in military training establishments is played by the VUZes themselves. In recent years many colleges such as the Ryazan Higher Airborne Command School, named for the Lenin Komsomol; the P.S. Nakhimov Black Sea Higher Naval School; and the Marshal of the Soviet Union I.Kh. Bagramyan Higher Rear Services Military School in Gorkiy have considerably stepped up student selection work and have achieved good results. However, certain chiefs of VUZes and political organs conduct this work without the proper efficiency and fail to achieve close contacts with military units, labor collectives, or educational establishments. It is often the case that the committees for professional selection at VUZes work in the old way.

Particularly high demands are made on the selection of officers entering military academies. Those enrolled for study in the academies should be the most promising and well-trained officers, who in terms of their political, businesslike, and moral qualities and service experience are worthy, having obtained their higher military education, of resolving the responsible tasks of ensuring the high combat readiness of troops and naval forces, serving at the supreme headquarters, and training and educating the new generation of officers at military training establishments. The chiefs and political organs of academies, commanders, and political and cadre organs at all levels must participate directly in the selection of such officers.

The professional selection of candidates for military training establishments is a matter of great state importance. Who enters the VUZes and which detachments of graduates will replenish the glorious officer corps in a few years time depend on its organization and implementation. That is why this most important matter should today be a subject for the particular concern not only of VUZes but of all commanders and chiefs, political organs, staffs, and party and Komsomol organizations.

Kurkotkin Addresses Army Food Production Conference

PM240936 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Mar 86 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "All-Army Conference"]

[Text] An all-Army conference on the questions of fulfilling the Food Program in the Army and Navy within the context of the implementation of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress was held 19 March at the M.V. Frunze Soviet Army Central House in Moscow.

The report and speeches noted that in the last 5-year plan commanders, political organs, and party, trade union, and Komsomol organizations did definite work to strengthen the material and technical base of agricultural enterprises and subsidiary farms and to improve the working, living, and leisure conditions of workers and employees.

However, the level that has been achieved in the development of production in districts and fleets cannot be deemed adequate. A resolute breakthrough is needed in the agrarian sector, the 27th party congress stressed, in order for there to be a marked improvement in food supplies in the 12th 5-Year Plan. The USSR Defense Ministry's agricultural enterprises have been set important tasks. They are called upon to ensure the planned growth rates in crop farming and livestock output. At the same time, the conference participants noted that in a number of places violations are permitted in the implementation of agrotechnical measures aimed at improving agricultural crop yields. Stockraising is being run at a loss on certain military sovkhozes.

The all-Army conference outlined measures for eradicating shortcomings and defined tasks for fulfilling the plans of the 12th 5-Year Plan.

Those present were addressed by Marshal of the Soviet Union S.K. Kurkotkin, USSR deputy defense minister and chief of the USSR Armed Forces Rear Services.

Lizichev Addresses Army Workers Conference

LD261620 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] A seminar-conference of ideological workers of the USSR Armed Forces opened today in the Frunze Central House of the Army in Moscow.

The report by Army General Lizichev, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and the Naval Fleet, and speeches stressed that the main task of commanders, political organizations, and all Communists is the further pefecting of field, air, and sea training, and bringing troops and fleet forces' training as close as possible to conditions of combat reality. Such should be the reply by army and navy Communists to the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress. The seminar-conference continues.

Transcaucasus Military Official Dies Suddenly

PM241129 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Mar 86 Second Edition p 4

[Obituary of V.G. Gryaznov]

[Excerpts] Lieutenant Colonel Vyacheslav Nikolayevich Gryaznov, first deputy commander of the Red Banner Transcaucasian Military District, has died suddenly.

D.I. Patiashvili, K.M. Bagirov, K.S. Demirchyan, M.M. Zaytsev, A.I. Shirinkin, V.M. Kozhbakhteyev, M.A. Tyagunov, K.A. Kochetov, V.L. Gulevich, A.N. Kleymenov, I.Ye. Buravkov, and G.F. Dmitriyev.